Statement-Ill

Debt outstanding of States as on 31st March

(Rs. crores)

SI. No.	Year	Debt Outstanding
1.	1981	23,959.00
2.	1985	44,395.00
3.	1990	94,224.00
4.	1992	126,338.00
5.	1997	243,525.00
6.	2002	586,687.00

Source: State Finances—A Study of Budgets of 2003-04, Reserve Bank of India, April 2004**.**

National Policy for NGOs

†2496. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to the Starred Question 44 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th December 2003; and state:

(a) whether the draft National Policy for NGOs containing the questionnaire regarding co-operation from voluntary organisations has been circulated among them and if so, the progress made in this regard; and

(b) what are the main features of the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN):

(a) The draft National Policy for the Voluntary Sector was circulated to the members of the Joint Machinery for Government and Voluntary Sector Collaboration. Comments received from voluntary organisations and other members of the Joint Machinery were discussed in the meeting of the Joint Machinery, held on 15th January, 2004. The revised draft National Policy for the Voluntary Sector prepared on the basis of the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

discussions is under consideration of the reconstituted Planning Commission.

(b) The thrust of the Policy addresses mainly the following issues, namely:

- To consolidate and expand the capacity of the voluntary sector to act as a partner of the State.
- To familiarise the voluntary sector with the current and emerging economic & social issues in order to enable them to participate in policy discussions effectively.
- To increase their capacity to act as a medium for the transfer of entrepreneurship, technologies & skills.
- To enable the sector to discharge the role of a watchdog.

Special package to States

2497. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has requested the Central Government for grant of special package to help them to boost their development activities;

(b) whether a similar request has also been received from the CM of Orissa;

(c) whether Government are aware that Orissa is the poorest of the poor and the most backward State as per Planning Commission and deserves top priority for grant of special package; and

(d) if so, time frame within which the Centre would grant financial package to this beleaguered State to tide over the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Orissa has the highest percentage of population below the poverty line in the country. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Government in the development of backward areas, special efforts are already being made. Apart from the Central assistance given to the